

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ABF-01 /010 W

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R 010224Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3107

INFO DIA WASHDC/AA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2570

EO 11652: NA.

TAGS: ABLD AS.

SUBJECT: FAMILY HOUSING UNITS FOR DOD.

REF: STATE 075992.

1. DATT HAS HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH A.V. JENNINGS, LARGE AND WELL-KNOWN CONTRACTING FIRM SPECIALIZING IN MEDIUM PRICE RESIDENTIAL HOUSING, WITH A VIEW TO ACQUIRING FOUR OR FIVE RESIDENCES TO HOUSE ASSISTANT ATTACHE AND STAFF PERSONNEL. EMBASSY IS AWAITING ADVICE AS TO WHETHER OFFICE OF CAPITAL TERRITORY WOULD BE PREPARED TO ALLOCATE TO THE EMBASSY UNIMPROVED BLOCKS OF LAND WITHIN OUTER CANBERRA SUBURBS AT NOMINAL RESERVE PRICES. THIS WOULD ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF DATT AND DEPARTMENT APPROVED JENNINGS HOUSING MODELS COMPATIBLE TO LAND SLOPES, DRAINAGE, ETC. OF ALLOCATED BLOCKS.

2. THIS PROPOSAL RE DATT HOUSING IN CANBERRA DOES NOT ALTER LONGSTANDING EMBASSY POLICY SUPPORTING ALLOWANCES CONCEPT FOR ALL JUNIOR AND MID-CAREER STAFF NEEDS. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, CANBERRA WILL AFFORD A GOOD VARIETY OF FAMILY-TYPE HOUSING, SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL CIVILIAN AGENCIES ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY. DATT STRONGLY PREFERS ACQUISITION OF HOUSING FOR HIS STAFF. WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT THIS DIFFERENT HOUSING POLICY AND RESULTANT ACQUISITION OF THE FOUR OR FIVE HOUSES IN QUESTION, RESERVED SOLEY FOR DATT PERSONNEL, WOULD

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ADVERSELY AFFECT MORALE AS BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY

COMPONENTS OF EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH GENERAL SERVICES FSL RESOURCES WOULD BE TAXED, WE BELIEVE ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD COULD BE HANDLED BY CURRENT STAFFING. UPON SCHEDULED ARRIVAL OF RSO PERSONNEL AND FULL TIME CONSULAR OFFICER GSO WILL BE RELIEVED OF LARGE PORTION OF HIS PRESENT WORKLOAD AND CAN FOCUS FULL ATTENTION UPON GSO SUPPORT DEMANDS.

3. REQUEST GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. SHALL EMBASSY ACTIVELY PURSUE MATTER OF LAND BLOCK ACQUISITION NOW UNDER REVIEW BY OFFICE OF CAPITAL TERRITORY, AND REPORT FINAL COSTING AND DESIGNATIONS TO DEPARTMENT PER 6 FAM 722 A (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), 722 B, C, & D?

B. CAN IT BE ASSUMED THAT A.V. JENNINGS DESIGN PLANS ETC INCLUDING COSTING, PRESENTLY IN THE HANDS OF DEPARTMENT, ARE ADEQUATE TO MEET THE REMAINING NEEDS OF 6 FAM 720?

C. IS EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO RETAIN LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN THE EVENT SUCH ARE REQUIRED REGARDING INITIAL AUSTRALIAN LAND LEASE ALLOCATIONS AND JENNINGS CONSTRUCTION FORMAT?
HARROP

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